

Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Carolyn Bennett and I ask you to vote no on SB 835.

Proponents of this bill are claiming “deception” and “intimidation” to women in need of pregnancy related services. But the examples given by critics of pregnancy care centers cannot be called evidence. So why not ask the *clients* what they think?

Care Net is one of the largest networks of pregnancy resource centers in North America with more than 1,100 affiliates and 30,000 volunteers. In 2019 they produced a factual report in response to the false accusations being brought against pregnancy centers.

Care Net’s report states that the percentages of Care Net-affiliated center clients who said their experience was positive were 99% in 2013, 97% in 2014, and 98% in 2015. Client satisfaction ratings that high are difficult to find in any industry.

97% satisfied. 98%. 99%. This is data. This is—the truth.

Critics of pregnancy centers depict them as unregulated and unprofessional. But Care Net-affiliated centers adhere to high standards that produce consistent, quality services. Other affiliation networks have similar policies.

These standards are posted publicly on Care Net’s website and include the following, for example:

- Clients receive accurate information about pregnancy, fetal development, lifestyle issues, and related concerns.
- We do not offer, recommend, or refer for abortions, abortifacients, or contraceptives. We are committed to offering accurate information about related risks and procedures.
- All of our advertising and communication are truthful and honest and accurately describe the services we offer.

Care Net’s report adds this: “In rare cases, unaffiliated or noncompliant centers may engage in practices that organizations like Care Net publicly condemn. However, to use that minority as an example of how most pregnancy centers operate is false and misleading.

For example, it would not be fair to use imprisoned abortion provider Dr. Kermit Gosnell as the example of how all abortion providers operate. Therefore, in the name of fairness, it is appropriate to judge the work of pregnancy centers based on the practices of the vast majority of them, which operate under the professional standards of national networks such as Care Net’s.

Pregnancy centers provide needed and worthy services to their communities. If it were not for the presence of pregnancy centers, pregnant women would have few places to turn if they were seeking services other than abortions to assist them in their pregnancies.”

Please oppose SB 835.